



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board **RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY**

<b>Report:</b>	Wendland 1H Well Fatal Explosion
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2020-04-I-TX-R3
<b>Date Issued:</b>	December 26, 2023
<b>Recipient:</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	Not Applicable – Initial Status

### **Recommendation Text:**

*Remove the exemption for oil and gas drilling and well servicing from the Control of Hazardous Energy standard (29 CFR 1910.147) and expand its applicability to cover oil and gas production and workover operations.*

### **Board Status Change Decision:**

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 29, 2020, the Daniel H. Wendland 1-H well (“Wendland 1-H well”) experienced a loss of well control that resulted in a blowout during the process of installing a new tubing head as part of a workover operation. Within seconds, the uncontrolled release oil and gas found an ignition source resulting in a flash fire that fatally injured three workers and seriously injured another. The incident also resulted in property damage estimated to be greater than \$1 million. The well was plugged and abandoned following the incident.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including inadequate well planning, insufficient industry guidance for well control for completed wells in underpressured reservoirs, and a lack of regulatory requirements for oil and gas well drilling and servicing operations. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued two recommendations to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-04-I-TX-R3**.